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Date: September 21, 2001

By:

Kay L. Gaviglio

PATENT
Docket No. GC527C3

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of

Estell et al.

Serial No.: 09/768,080

Filed: January 23, 2001

For: Proteins Producing an Altered
Immunogenic Response and
Methods of Making and Using
the Same

Group Art Unit: 1645

Examiner: Unassigned

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SUPPLEMENTAL PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

Prior to considering the above-identified application on the merits, please enter the following supplemental preliminary amendment to the specification.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel without prejudice claims 1 - 6 and 11 - 13, amend claims 7 and 8, and add new claims 14 - 27. Applicants explicitly reserve the right to pursue claims of equivalent, greater or lesser scope to those canceled by this amendment in a later filed application. A marked-up version of each amended claim is appended hereto along with a clean set of the claims.

7.(Once amended) A variant of a polypeptide of interest comprising a T-cell epitope, wherein said variant differs from said polypeptide of interest by having an altered T-cell epitope such that said variant and said polypeptide produce a different immunogenic response in a individual, wherein said T-cell epitope is altered by having at least one amino acid substitution.